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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 04 PARIS 001039

NOFORN

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 07/30/2019  
TAGS PARM, PREL, MNUC, IR, CH, UK, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCE'S POSITION ON NUCLEAR ISSUES IN THE RUN-UP  
TO THE NPT REVCON

REF: A. PARIS POINTS JULY 15 B. PARIS POINTS JULY 6 C. PARIS POINTS APRIL 10 D. PARIS 1025

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Kathy Allegrone for Reasons 1.4(b), (d).

1. (S/NF) SUMMARY: French officials have made clear that nuclear issues enjoy the sustained attention of President Sarkozy and have become a n  
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PUBLICLY PROCLAIMING LEADERSHIP ON DISARMAMENT  
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2. (S/NF) France kicked off its reaction to President Obama's nuclear policies immediately following his April 5 remarks in Prague with a publ

3. (C/NF) The French MFA also produced statements on July 7 and 10 - immediately following President Obama's Moscow trip - trumpeting France's

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EAGER FOR ENERGETIC ENGAGEMENT  
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4. (S/NF) This flurry of publicity was followed up in July by a series of high-level, interagency engagements by the GOF on nuclear issues wit

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FRENCH WORRIES  
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5. (S/NF) In large part, France's desire to work ever more closely with the United States on nuclear issues reflects new concerns with U.S. pc

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IRAN  
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6. (S/NF) The GOF has expressed its dismay at the U.S. decision to not mention Iran by name and make reference to its need to adhere to the Ac

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FMCT  
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7. (S/NF) France is currently reviewing its policy on an FMCT, a process the GOF expects to complete by the end of September. France has stopp

8. (S/NF) In the context of an FMCT, French officials have repeatedly mentioned China's expected opposition to real progress, regretting that,  
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universal moratorium on fissile material production as FMCT negotiations proceed (ref D). Noting potential progress in Geneva on starting these

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE U.S. RHETORIC?  
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9. (S/NF) As the GOF's focus on President Obama's speeches shows, French concerns currently focus on U.S. rhetoric and they hope to shape our

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FRANCE'S UNTOUCHABLE REDLINE: DELEGITIMIZING DETERRENCE  
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10. (S/NF) However, France's concerns about U.S. rhetoric go beyond RevCon tactics and to the heart of French nuclear theology. Araud said the

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FRANCE WORRIED ABOUT THE UK  
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11. (S/NF) France's concerns over evolving U.S. nuclear policy come in the context of similar, but even greater, concerns with the UK. Audiber

12. (S/NF) UK Political Officer Ben Fender told us on July 21 that the French have been very vocal in their concern about UK disarmament polic  
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the UK and France actually have very little to argue about. Britain also wants a balanced focus on all three pillars, and agrees on the need to c

13. (S/NF) Fender added that, in the UK's view, while any moves seen to threaten the legitimacy of France's deterrent will remain a redline, t

14. (S/NF) COMMENT: The GOF is anxious for P3 unity and close cooperation with the United States in rolling out disarmament and non-proliferat

As next steps, post suggests the following for the Department's consideration:

- Maintaining regular senior-level engagement with the GOF on nuclear issues in Paris, Washington, Geneva, New York, and elsewhere, ensuring c
- Reiterating to the French that our positions regarding the RevCon are largely in synch;
- Continuing active discussions at both technical and political levels of those topics where disagreements may remain but where we might find
- Using this engagement as an opportunity to look for early warning signs that French suspicions regarding our position on disarmament may be